

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 have been previously cancelled; claims 23-25 have been cancelled by way of this response. Claims 15, 18 and 20 have been amended. No new claims have been added by way of this response. Thus, claims 15-22 and 26-29 are currently pending and presented for examination. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

**Response to Rejections under Section 102:**

Applicant has amended independent claim 15 which now recites:

“... a first and second inductive element for bidirectional data transmission via at least one data transmission path, the data transmission path arranged outlying the common virtual rotational axis, ..., and wherein the first inductive element is arranged adjacent to the second inductive element relative to the virtual rotational axis.”

Claims 15, 17-19 and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kojima et al. (US 6,950,633 B2).

Applicant respectfully submits that Kojima teaches a rotary transformer 1 having a rotor-side transformer winding 2 and a stator-side transformer winding 4 (see Kojima, Fig. 1). The rotary transformer 1 is one inductive element for a data transmission in one direction. Kojima does not disclose a bidirectional data transmission, wherein one transformer transmits data and one further transformer receives data.

In contrast, Applicant claims a bidirectional data transmission, wherein two inductive elements 500, 800 (two transformers) are arranged adjacent two each other. Each inductive element 500, 800 includes two coils 501, 502 (see Fig. 3 and paragraph [00046]), wherein the first inductive element transmits data and the second inductive element receives data.

In view of the above, independent claim 15 is patentable. Furthermore, dependent claims 17-19 and 22-26 which depend on claim 15 are patentable at least based on their dependence from claim 15 as well as based on their own merits. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections.

Claims 15, 16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kiedrowski (US 4,754,180).

Applicant respectfully submits that Kiedrowski teaches an inductive coupler 112 with a primary winding 116 and a moveable secondary winding 117 (see Kiedrowski, Fig.5 and col. 7, lines 55-61). Kiedrowski discloses one inductive element for a data transmission in one direction (the secondary winding 117 is coupled to energize a payload).

In contrast, Applicant claims a bidirectional data transmission, wherein two inductive elements 500, 800 (two transformers) are arranged adjacent two each other. Each inductive element 500, 800 includes two coils 501, 502 (see Fig. 3 and paragraph [00046]), wherein the first inductive element transmits data and the second inductive element receives data.

In view of the above, independent claim 15 is patentable. Furthermore, dependent claims 16 and 20 which depend on claim 15 are patentable at least based on their dependence from claim 15 as well as based on their own merits. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections.

Claims 15, 17 and 21, 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohji et al. (US 5,412,366) or Jin et al. (EPO 0 926 690 A1).

Applicant respectfully submits that Ohji teaches a rotary transformer with a rotor and a stator 11 (see Ohji, Fig. 11A), rotor and stator having conductive coils 4. Ohji discloses one inductive element (rotary transformer) for a data transmission in one direction.

Applicant respectfully submits that Jin discloses a transformer 1 having cores 2, 4 with a primary coil 3 and a secondary coil 5, wherein the cores 2, 4 are arranged such that they are relatively rotatable across a gap G (see Jin, Fig. 1 and paragraph [0043]). The transformer is one inductive element for a data transmission in one direction.

In contrast, Applicant claims first and second inductive elements 500, 800 arranged adjacent to each other (see Fig. 3 and paragraph [00046]) for a bidirectional data transmission at the same time.

In view of the above, independent claim 15 is patentable. Furthermore, dependent claims 17 and 21, 29 which depend on claim 15 are patentable at least based on their dependence from claim 15 as well as based on their own merits. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections.

Response to Rejections under Section 103:

Claims 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohji et al. or Jin et al. in view of Esser et al. (US 5,814,900).


For at least the reasons discussed in connection with the Section 102 rejections, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 27-28 based on their dependence from claim 15 as well as based on their own merits. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the Section 103 rejection.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the objections and rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including fees for additional claims and terminal disclaimer fee, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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